

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 H-02 PRS-01 MC-02

IGA-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /070 W

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R 130940Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7615

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 0676

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, GB, AO

SUBJ: US MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR GABON

REF: A. LIBREVILLE 0602, B. LIBREVILLE 0672, C. STATE 09724

1. AFTER ABRUPTLY ENDING FIRST PART OF APRIL 12 TELEPHONE CONVERSATION REGARDING AGREEMENT OF NEW GOG AMBASSADOR TO US (REPORTED REFTEL B), PRESIDENT BONGO RETURNED TO NOW-FAMILIAR THEME. "DIDN'T I HAVE ANTHING TO REPORT CONCERNING THE MATTER THAT WE KNOW ABOUT", HE ASKED REFERRING EUPHEMISTICALLY TO HIS FIVE-MONTH OLD REQUEST FOR US MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

2. I COULD ONLY GO OVER SAME REPLY GIVEN PRESIDENT MARCH 29 (REFTEL A), THAT WE WERE STILL WAITING FOR DECISION. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, PRESIDENT WAS NOT REASSURED.

3. HE REMARKED POINTEDLY THAT HE WAS READING PRESS REPORTS OF CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR US MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN CERTAIN AFRICAN STATES INCLUDING SOME IN CENTRAL AFRICA. "WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR GABON", HE ASKED? WITH NO NEW INFORMATION FROM DEPARTMENT SINCE STATE 059724 OF MARCH 11, THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO BUT BEG OFF QUESTION BY ASKING PRESIDENT TO WAIT LITTLE WHILE LONGER. "WE SHOULD HAVE ANSWER SOON", I ADDED BRINGING CONVERSATION

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TO RATHER UNSATISFACTORY CLOSE.

4. IN SEPARATE PHONE CALL SAME DAY ON ANOTHER MATTER, BONGO'S CHEF DE CABINET MAYILA RAISED QUESTION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGAIN. "WHY HADN'T WE HEARD ANYTHING; WASN'T AMBASSADOR STEIGMAN SUPPOSED TO BE IN WASHINGTON NOW", HE ASKED? THANKFULLY MAYILA MADE LONG ANSWER UNNECESSARY BY INTERRUPTING MY REPLY WITH STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT HAD INFORMED HIM OF OUR CONVERSATION THAT MORNING AND HAD GIVEN HIM INSTRUCTION TO FOLLOW UP WITH ME. THIS ALLOWED ME TO CLOSE MATTER WITH PROMISE TO KEEP HIM INFORMED.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE CURRENT BEST ESTIMATE OF WHEN EMBASSY WILL HAVE DECISION ON FY-76 AND 77 FMS CREDITS TO TRANSMIT TO PRESIDENT. ANY OTHER POSITIVE INFORMATION THAT CAN BE PASSED ON WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL. BONGO'S PATIENCE UNDERSTANDABLY WEARING THIN AND BELIEVE IT WILL BE MISTAKE TO TRY TO STALL WITH SAME ANSWERS ANY LONGER.  
DEJARNETTE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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